GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2264
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY FOR NRIs
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up an Autonomous University for Non Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location identied for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the said University is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d): A policy framework for setting up a PIO/NRI University at a suitable place in the country, ensuring flexibility in the choice of disciplines and courses offered, has been approved by the Government. Salient features of the proposed University are given in Annexure-I. In response to an advertisement published in India and abroad inviting 'Expression of Interest' for setting up the University, 16 proposals have been received. The proposals will be examined by a Screening Committee constituted for the purpose. The time by which the University would be set up would be known only after the proposals have been examined.

Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2264 to be answered on 29-08-2007

The salient features of the proposed PIO/NRI University are as follows:

The University will be set up by Overseas Indian Trusts or Societies with credibility and experience in the field of education under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and will have the status of "Deemed University" de novo under Section 3 of the UGC Act.

50% seats will be earmarked for PIO/NRI students and 50% for resident Indian students. The existing government policy on reservation will apply for the 50% reserved seats for resident Indian students.

Full autonomy will be granted to the NRI/PIO University in curriculum design, appointment/ selection of personnel, faculty, admission procedure, etc. The University will also enjoy full autonomy in financial matters & fees for NRI/PIO students, intake of PIO/NRI students, etc.

The proposed NRI/PIO University will conform to the standards set by the regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, MCI, etc. as a minimum benchmark. However, the institution has the option to benchmark itself to the best international standards.

The University will adhere to the norms and procedures of Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Indian Nursing Council and Pharmacy Council of India for setting up of Medical College/Dental College/Pharmacy College/Nursing College under their respective Acts and Regulations.